Hike in newsprint prices

221. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector newsprint units have recently raised the newsprint prices;

(b) if so, what are the compulsions in raising the newsprint prices; and

(c) what will be its overall impact on the newsprint industry and what steps are being contemplated by Government to protect this industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rise in the price of newsprint announced by the indigenous manufacturers towards the end of May, 1992 has been mainly on account of escalations in input costs.

(c) There is no statutory control on the prices of newsprint. However, they have been sent for ex-post facto review regarding their reasonableness to Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

Microwave link to Ahemedabad Doordarshan

222. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have assured that the Ahmedabad Doordarshan will be provided microwave link in early 1992;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in providing microwave linkage to Ahmedabad Doordarshan; and

(c) by when the Ahmedabad Doordarshan is likely to be provided microwave linkage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) The various high power and low power TV transmitters in Gujarat are envisaged to be linked to Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad via satellite instead of microwave mode of linkage for dissemination of regional TV service. As per present indications, the service is expected to be introduced by December, 1992.

Completion of CBI inquiry into the sponsored T.V. serials

223. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation has completed the inquiry into malpractices of selecting the sponsored TV serials; and

(b) if not, by when Government are expecting the inquiry report from C.B.I.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Information & Broadcasting Ministry has asked C.B.I. to expedite the complete the inquiry on priority basis.

Deployment of army in sensitive areas

224. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to handover all the electronic media installations in Punjab, Chandigarh, Jammu